

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with David Simonelli on 12/16/2010.

The application has been amended as follows:

In Claim 1:

At line 4: After "wherein the guideway is aligned at", "and" was removed, and - - an- - was added.

At line 5: after "insertion of the fuel nozzle", "." was removed and - -, wherein the ball is acted up on by a force in the direction of the tank access opening, wherein the force is a weight or force storage device arranged on a lever.- - was added.

In Claim 6:

Claim 6 was cancelled.

In Claim 11:

Claim 11 was cancelled.

In Claim 14:

Claim 14 was cancelled.

In Claim 15:

Claim 15 was cancelled.

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In Claim 16:

At line 1: before “further comprising”, “The sealing device as claimed in claim 1,” was removed, and - -A sealing device comprising a tank access opening including a guideway, a ball displaceably supported inside the guideway of the tank access opening in such a way that on insertion of a fuel nozzle into the guideway, the ball opens the tank access opening, wherein the guideway is aligned at an acute angle to the direction of insertion of the fuel nozzle; said sealing device- - was added

At line 2: after “the tank access opening”, “.” was removed, and - -wherein the slide is coupled to a rotatably supported lever.- - was added.

In Claim 17:

Claim 17 was cancelled.

In Claim 18:

At line 1: after "claimed in claim", “17” was removed, and - -16- - was added.

2. The following is an examiner’s statement of reasons for allowance: The combination of a biased ball tank sealing device and a pivoting lever, or a counterweight are not anticipated or made obvious by the prior art of record in the examiner's opinion.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JASON K. NIESZ whose telephone number is (571)270-3920. The examiner can normally be reached on mon-fri 9-4.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Greg Huson can be reached on (571) 272-4887. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Jason K Niesz
Examiner
Art Unit 3751

/Timothy L Maust/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3751